



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)
CENTRAL ASIA TASK FORCE**

CENTRAL ASIA REGION – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #42, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

January 9, 2002

Note: This Fact Sheet updates previously released Central Asia Region Fact Sheets and Situation Reports.

Numbers Affected

- According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), 7.5 million Afghans are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance including food, shelter, health, education, or demining initiatives.

Relief Activities

- From January 1 through 7, the UN World Food Program (WFP) dispatched 16,649 metric tons (MT) of food commodities from seven regional hubs/transfer points into Afghanistan. This amount represents an average of 2,237 MT per day.
- On January 9, WFP completed the second day of a ten-day, citywide food distribution to vulnerable families in Hirat. WFP reports that to date, 10,000 families, or 65,000 people, have each received a 50-kilogram bag of wheat. Thus far, there have been no disturbances or difficulties at the distribution site (a football stadium). The distribution aims to reach a total of 53,000 families, or about 78 percent of Hirat's population of 430,000 people. WFP is preparing for a similar citywide food distribution in Mazar-e-Sharif.
- As part of its Food-for-Education program, WFP is continuing the distribution of food to schoolchildren in several districts of Badakhshan Province, in northeastern Afghanistan. Approximately 6,500 children and 200 teachers and service staff in 17 schools are currently receiving a four-month dry ration of 50 kilograms of wheat flour. The program helps increase school attendance, reduce dropout rates, and encourage families to send girls to school. Under this program girls receive five liters of vegetable oil every month as an extra incentive for regular school attendance. WFP provides food to 27,000 children and 1,500 teachers and service staff in 50 schools throughout Badakhshan province.
- According to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) officials, in the first four days of the measles vaccination campaign launched on January 1, the program has vaccinated more than 257,000 children in Kabul. The goal is to vaccinate 1.2 million children in Kabul during the next two weeks. After Kabul, the next stages of the campaign will take place in Parwan, Kapisa, Wardak, and Logar provinces.

Security

- Kandahar remains off-limits for UN expatriate staff, and the UN is advising NGOs active in the area to operate only during daylight hours. USAID/OFDA implementing partner Mercy Corps International (MCI) continues to report that its operations are going smoothly in Kandahar. MCI reports excellent relations with and cooperation from local authorities in Kandahar.
- Among USAID/OFDA implementing partners, only IRC has reported problems with "diversions" of food and only in isolated incidents. For example, IRC reported that on January 3, in Balk Province, 120 MT of food were seized from IRC. However, with the help of WFP, IRC was able to negotiate an agreement with local officials for the return of all 120 MT of the food. IRC is distributing this food according to its original distribution plan.

Population Movements

- On January 7 and 8, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) monitors at the Chaman crossing on the border with Pakistan recorded the return to Afghanistan of more than 2,700 Afghans. During the same period, 1,524 Afghans returned home to Afghanistan from Iran through the Dogharoun-Islam Qala border crossing in western Afghanistan.
- Some Afghans continue to flee to neighboring countries. UNHCR reports that, on January 8 and 9, approximately 410 Afghans crossed into Baluchistan province in Pakistan. An additional 2,250 people from Kandahar Province reportedly arrived over the past week in Zaranj, a camp on the Iran-Afghanistan border, in Sistan-Baluchistan Province.
- In the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) in Pakistan, UNHCR is accelerating the transfer of refugees from Jalozai and Peshawar to various new camps in tribal agencies in Pakistan. Today, UNHCR shifted 2,020 people to Shalman camp in the Khyber Agency. Shalman now houses more than 6,000 refugees. In Baluchistan, another 507 refugees were moved today from the Killi Faizo transit center near Chaman to Roghani and Landi Karez, leaving an estimated 2,827 refugees in Killi Faizo. Since November 2001, UNHCR has moved more

than 92,000 newly arriving Afghan refugees (68,400 in Baluchistan and 23,700 in North West Frontier Province) into recently established camps in Pakistan.

- In Hirat, UNHCR has established three checkpoints in order to have a more precise picture of newly arriving internally displaced persons (IDPs). There were 4,300 new arrivals registered in Maslakh camp in the first week of 2002. The new arrivals will be shifted to a new camp, Mir Daud, as soon as the camp construction is complete. WFP, USAID/OFDA implementing partners International Medical Corps (IMC) and Shelter Now International, as well as Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and Medicos del Mundo (MDM) are working to meet emergency food, health, and shelter needs in Maslakh.
- Since January 1, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have helped return 5,000 IDPs from the Panjshir Valley to villages in the Shomali Plain, west of Kabul. The returnees are mostly ethnic Tajiks who had fled Taliban rule. Returning families are receiving winterized tents, shelter-repair kits, and reintegration kits containing blankets, plastic sheeting, winter clothing, a kitchen set, a stove, 150 kilograms of charcoal, soap, and jerry cans.

Logistics

- The northeast continues to experience logistical difficulties due to weather. On January 8, a convoy of 4x4 trucks carrying wheat west from Feyzabad toward Argu was forced to turn back to Feyzabad due to ice on a particularly steep section of road. The commodities were returned to Feyzabad. Today the wheat will be re-loaded onto 6x6 trucks equipped with snow chains and dispatched again.
- Despite the dispatch into Afghanistan of an unprecedented level of food aid during the last four months, pockets of need remain, such as in remote villages in the northern, dry land agricultural areas of Balkh and Badghis provinces. These pockets of need illustrate the extreme logistical challenges faced by WFP and NGOs, including USAID/OFDA implementing partners, as they attempt to deliver food to these remote locations.
- IRC identified pockets of vulnerable populations in Zarah district, southern Balkh province. In response, IRC diverted some 600 MT of food from nearby Marmul district to the town of Zeri, Zarah. The Norwegian Project Office also moved complementary food into Zeri. In addition, WFP delivered wheat to several points in Zarah four days ago. IRC is investigating options for air delivery of wheat and complementary food to remote, vulnerable populations in the district. Meanwhile, IRC has begun to assemble a team of donkeys and horses in the town of Zeri. They will be used to deliver food to the villages starting today.
- USAID/OFDA implementing partners throughout the northern dry-land agricultural area are undertaking similar logistical efforts, using donkeys and horses. These include ACTED in Faryab province, Save the Children/US in Sar-e Pul, and Solidarites in Samangan.
- In a separate situation, UNHCR recently conducted an assessment in Qala-e-Naw district, Badghis Province and identified an urgent need for food in certain villages. IRC is preparing to meet this need by delivering USAID/OFDA-funded complementary food to 10,000 families in Qala-e Naw district. Currently, wheat and complementary food packages are being assembled in Hirat, and IRC expects to distribute them in Qala-e-Naw in the next several days.

U.S. Government Activities

New Actions

- On January 8, USAID/OFDA funded a grant to GOAL for \$1,000,000 to support emergency agricultural assistance, spot rehabilitation of sanitation and potable water systems, and shelter repair in the northern provinces of Jowzjan and Samangan. This program is designed to benefit 34,500 people living in rural farming communities in these provinces. GOAL will be working in areas particularly hard hit by the three-year drought.

Disaster Declarations & Background

- On October 4, 2001, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster for Afghanistan for FY 2002.
- On October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster for Tajikistan due to drought.

FY 2002 USG Assistance to Afghanistan

Total USAID/OFDA	\$76,091,242
Total USAID/FFP	\$40,555,000
Total USAID/OTI	\$1,687,820
Total State/PRM	\$32,260,000
Total DOD*	\$50,897,769
TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance FY 2002.....	\$201,491,831
TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance FY 2001.....	\$183,107,625

TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan FY 2001/2002..... \$384,599,456

FY 2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan

Total USAID/OFDA	\$998,180
Total USAID/FFP	\$20,000,000
TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2002.....	\$20,998,180
TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001.....	\$67,210,000

TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002 \$88,208,180

Note: Full details of funding above are available in weekly USAID/OFDA Central Asia Region Situation Reports.

**Note: DOD funding totals are estimates.*

USAID/OFDA fact sheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html